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chief. The Saxon's mind . . . is destructive, and his sprackness wants the guidance of refined thought. . . . Thence it is that seats put out at towns are often wantonly wrenched asunder, that bars and stiles are notched by bearers of an axe, that the guide-post is upset, and coping stones are pushed off bridge walls, and trees and shrubs are damaged, and the limb sprackness is spent in whittling sticks.

If Mr. Barnes' ideas were carried out we might look for a new and enlarged edition of the dictionary. Here are some of the changes he would make :

Electricity.....	Fire-ghost.	Perambulator.....	Push-wainling.
Superannuated.....	Overyearly.	Magnificent.....	High-deedy.
Democracy.....	Folkdom.	Statics.....	Weightcraftlore.
Criticism.....	Deemsterhood.	Quadrangle.....	Fourwinkle.
Botany.....	Wortlore.	Generations.....	Child-teams.
Telegram.....	Wire-spell.	Annals.....	Year-bookings.
Altercation.....	Brangle.	Enthusiasm.....	Faith-heat.
Haughty.....	Overmindy.	Butler.....	Cellar-thane.
Omnibus.....	Folkwain.	Appendix.....	Hank-matter.
Semi-detached houses.....	House-twin.	Ambassador.....	Statespellman.
Active.....	Sprack.	Epidemic.....	Manqualm.

Of all this, Mr. Ballantyne says what may be equally applicable to the "I," "my," "me," and "myself" of the President's speech—"an author who instead of using his own (native) language in its richest and truest literary form takes up a linguistic fad . . . makes his work provincial instead of literary."

GEOFFREY CHAMPLIN.

## V.

### A CHOICE OF EVILS.

INTEMPERANCE is a great evil, but it is not the greatest. It is chiefly a physical disease, and can be cured. Prohibitory legislation always evokes two greater evils than the evil it seeks to exterminate. If the laws are rigidly enforced, they breed a brood of hypocrites; if they are dead letters, they engender a contempt for law. I have so profound a respect for individual freedom that I would rather see the whole nation drunk from deliberate choice, than any man sober from compulsion; and I have so profound a respect for personal integrity that I would rather see a thousand drunkards than a single hypocrite. Drunkards sometimes reform; but hypocrites have lost even the capacity to reform; they are like girdled trees, and rotten to the core. Drunkenness is only a mental skin disease. A prohibition law will only be both successful and not worse than drunkenness when it is passed and enforced by every individual *for himself*.

EDWARD F. HADMAN.

## VI.

### THE AGE OF MENDACITY.

It is easily susceptible of proof that there is to-day far more lying and misrepresentation of what we may term a professional type than there has ever been before. If figures are demanded it is only necessary to glance at any of the daily journals, run the eye casually, as it were, over the columns, note the number of easily detected falsehoods therein contained and multiply by the total alleged circulation as given in the sworn statement at the head of the day's issue. More than this, if each paper is read by several different persons it is fair still farther to increase the estimate, for a lie is surely a lie every time it is repeated. Thus by a very simple arithmetical process it is possible to show that millions of falsehoods—clad in all the authority that printer's ink still carries for many minds—are sent out daily upon their mission to distort the truth, if not directly to promulgate actual falsehood. During a political campaign of course this practice of journalistic lying is vastly increased, for the pernicious doctrine that justifies mendacity for political purposes has its natural effect. It is regarded as "good journalism" to print in